

Utah Public Health Laboratory – Guide to Rabies Testing and Fees

The Utah Public Health Laboratory (UPHL) provides free testing only for submissions meeting the recommendations listed in the 2016 Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control (<http://www.nasphv.org/Documents/NASPHVRabiesCompendium.pdf>) and in those circumstances where a significant risk of infection can be identified. Any animals received that do not clearly meet the criteria outlined below due to vague information or incomplete paperwork accompanying the sample may lead to a \$180 fee. Please fully complete and submit the [Rabies Testing Request Form](#) with every specimen and refer to the [Rabies Specimen Preparation and Transport Guidance](#) prior to submission of samples.

Rabies Testing Reminders

- All of Utah's recommendations for the management of rabies is sourced from the Rabies Compendium. The 2016 revision of the Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control is available here: <http://nasphv.org/Documents/NASPHVRabiesCompendium.pdf>.
- Please refer to Utah Communicable Disease Rule Code [R386-702-12. Special Measures for Control of Rabies](#) for Utah Administrative Rules regarding Rabies Control.
- When filling out the [specimen submission form](#), it is crucial that all fields are as complete as possible to provide the lab with a description of the exposure/incident and explain why the specimen is being submitted for rabies testing. Without complete information to justify submission based on the recommendations in the Rabies Compendium, a charge of \$180 will be incurred.
- Animal heads received with signs of advanced decomposition are unable to be tested and will be cancelled.

Rabies Sample Submission Guidelines

- Refrigerate specimen as soon as possible after death of animal.
- Do not freeze (freezing may delay results).
- Submit one of the following, as appropriate:
 - Head ONLY of animal for all domestic animals (dogs, cats, etc.)
 - Intact brain for all large animals (e.g., cattle or horses)Whole animal if less than 12 inches long and exclusive of tail (e.g., bat, small mammal)
- Do not:
 - Fix specimen in formalin or other preservative.
 - Euthanize animal by clubbing or shooting in the head.
 - If you need assistance with humane euthanasia or decapitation of the animal, please contact your [local animal control office](#) or the Utah Department of Health Zoonotic Epidemiologist (801-538-6191) for assistance.
- Do not submit:
 - Live animals (with the exception of bats that can be submitted intact, dead or alive);
 - Animals raised/confined to cage (hamsters, gerbils, mice, rats, rabbits, etc.);
 - Wild or domestic birds (including chickens), turtles, or other reptiles;
 - Rodents/lagomorphs (mice, rats, rabbit, squirrel, etc.) without prior consultation with state health department Zoonotic Epidemiologist (801-538-6191)
 - Animal heads received with signs of advanced decomposition are unable to be tested and will be cancelled.
- UPHL specimen receiving:
 - Specimen receiving hours:
 - Monday – Friday → 8:00 am – 10:00 pm
 - Saturday → 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
 - *Closed on Sunday*
 - Shipping Address:
 - Utah Unified Laboratories, 4431 South 2700 West Taylorsville, UT 84129-8600
 - Phone:
 - 801-965-2522
- Please send specimen to arrive during UPHL specimen receiving hours
 - If this is not possible, please refrigerate specimen until it is able to be sent to UPHL

Rabies Testing Fee schedule

Bats	<i>Any bat when a person or animal has had an exposure or reasonable probability of exposure; including bites, exposure of saliva, a bat in the room with a sleeping person or unattended child, a bat near a child, or mentally impaired or intoxicated person, etc.</i>	No Fee
Dogs, Cats and Ferrets	<i>Regardless of rabies vaccination status, if signs suggestive of rabies are documented.</i>	No Fee
	<i>Any stray animal that exposes a person</i>	No Fee
	<i>Regardless of rabies vaccination status, any animal that exposes a person if signs suggestive of rabies are NOT documented or animals have NOT been quarantined and observed for at least 10 days.</i>	\$180
	<i>Occupational or workman's compensation covered exposures (i.e., vet technician is bitten by a patient).</i>	\$180
	<i>Regardless of rabies vaccinations status, a healthy dog, cat, or ferret that HAS NOT exposed a person.</i>	\$180
Wild Mammals	<i>Wild mammals and hybrids that expose persons, pets, or livestock (i.e., skunks, foxes, raccoons, coyotes, etc.)</i>	No Fee
	<i>Small rodents (rats, mice, squirrels, chipmunks, voles, moles, etc.) and lagomorphs (rabbits and hares) submitted without prior consultation and approval from Utah Department of Health.</i>	Testing not offered without prior approval
Livestock	<i>If signs suggestive of rabies are documented.</i>	No Fee
Non-Mammals	<i>Birds, fish, reptiles, etc.</i>	Testing not offered
Other	<i>Incomplete paperwork accompanying the sample. Please include the full story/situation behind the sample submission.</i>	\$180

For additional guidance on appropriate quarantine measures and whether to submit an animal for rabies testing, please review the other resources available on the [Utah Department of Health rabies webpage](#) or contact the Bureau of Epidemiology at 1-888-EPI-UTAH.